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Letter dated 20 July 1999 from the Permanent Representative of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to bring to your attention the statement issued on 15 July 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on the events in Iran (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Marjatta **Rasi**
Permanent Representative of Finland
to the United Nations

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Annex

Statement issued on 15 July 1999 by the Presidency of the European Union on the events in Iran

[Original: English and French]

The European Union has followed with concern the reaction of police and security forces to the course of events related to the student demonstrations which started on 8 July in Tehran and which have spread to other cities. The European Union appeals to all groups to refrain from all kinds of violence.

The European Union has noted the efforts of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran to pursue a course of institutionalizing the democratic structures and respect for civil society as well as promoting respect for the rights and freedoms of the individual. The European Union welcomes the condemnation by the Iranian Government of the violence that has been used against the demonstrators.

The European Union appeals to all political and social forces in the Islamic Republic of Iran to promote a policy of tolerance and respect for universal human rights in all their aspects, including protecting the rights of freedom of expression, association and assembly.

The European Union believes that the present situation can find an appropriate solution only through dialogue and on the basis of universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms. Primarily it is for the Iranian people to resolve the situation within Iran.